

Author's response

I am truly sorry to read about the problems Dr Rivera had. I do not know which HMO it was, what his interaction was with the AMA, or what the story was. I do know that the labor laws allow collective negotiations with employers, not directly with managed care organizations (insurers), unless they are employers. That is the group of physicians we can assist, employed physicians and now residents because the National Labor Relations Board has ruled them to be employees.

Even labor leaders in traditional unions say, and are writing, that the strike weapon is rapidly becoming uncommon. They say that strikes only alienate the public, and they do not work well. Rather, putting the deficiencies of the institution with which we (PRN) are negotiating on the front page of the local newspaper, which likely causes the institution to lose managed care contracts, is powerful pressure.

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